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trainees to take up teaching profession was thought of at that time when the emoluments were far less. But, to-day, when we have increased their emoluments, they should be allowed to take their chance along with other professions. We do not give stipends in respect of other professions. In view of all these, it will have to be considered whether this inducement of giving stipends to teacher-trainees alone is necessary.

Mineral wealth in the Chalk Hills, Salem district.

* 2419 *Q.*—SRI N. K. PALANISAMY: Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether minerals like gold, silver and copper are available in Chalk Hills of the Salem district; and

(*b*) the steps taken by the Government to exploit the above minerals?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM: (*a*) The area was surveyed during 1946-47 by the Geological Survey Department and it was found that there was no occurrence of gold, silver and copper in workable quantities in that area.

(*b*) Does not arise.

Gazetted posts in the Home Department.

* 2420 *Q.*—SRI K. R. VISWANATHAN (on behalf of Sri K. Aranganathan): Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state the number of Gazetted posts of Deputy Secretary, Joint Secretary and Assistant Secretaries in the Home Department on this date and the number of Malayalees and non-Malayalees in these posts?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: On 29th April 1955, there were on post of Joint Secretary, one post of Deputy Secretary and four posts of Assistant Secretaries in the Home Department. The holders of the posts of Joint Secretary, Deputy Secretary and one of the four posts of Assistant Secretaries were Malayalees. The other Assistant Secretaries were non-Malayalees.

Industries governed by the Minimum Wages Act.

9-30 a.m. * 2421 *Q.*—SRI N. K. PALANISAMY: Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state the number of industries in the State to which the Payment of Wages Act is applicable?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM: The provisions of the Payment of Wages Act, 1936, applied in the first instance to the payment of wages to persons employed in any factory and to persons employed (otherwise than in a factory) in any railway by a railway administration or, either directly or through a subcontractor, by a person fulfilling a contract with a railway administration.

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The provisions of the Act have later been extended to persons employed in the following industrial establishments :—

(1) Tramway and Motor Omnibus Services.

(2) Mines [except section 8 (4)]. ...

(3) Plantation.

(4) Industrial establishments within the meaning of sub-clause (*f*) of clause (ii) of section 2 of the Payment of Wages Act which have been or may be declared to be factories under section 85 of the Factories Act, 1948.

SRI N. K. PALANISAMY : ஷாப் அண்ட் எஸ்டாபிளிஷ்மெண்ட் ஆக்ட் இருக்கக்கூடிய பல தொழில்களுக்கும் பேமெண்ட் ஆப் வேஜஸ் ஆக்டை கொண்டுவருவதற்கு சர்க்கார் என்ன நடவடிக்கை எடுக்கும் ?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : அதைப்பற்றி தனி கேள்வி போட்டால் அதற்கு பதில் சொல்லுகிறேன்.

Uniform wages for all classes of workers.

* 2422 *Q.*—SRI K. R. VISWANATHAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether there was any proposal before the Government to fix a uniform minimum daily wage for all classes of labourers ; and

(*b*) if so, why it has not been given effect to?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : (*a*) No, Sir.

(*b*) Does not arise.

SRI K. R. VISWANATHAN : With regard to wages, the factory labourers are governed by the Factory Laws. In the case of agricultural labourers and other casual labourers, the wages are unsettled. Their daily wages are too low and their standard of living deteriorates from day to day. They are unable to meet their daily requirements even from out of these low wages. Will the Government therefore come forward to fix a uniform minimum daily wage for all classes of labourers with a view to raising the standard of living of all labourers and as a measure of laying down the foundations of a socialistic pattern of society?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : Sir, the whole question is under the examination of the Government.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : With the permission of the House I will take five more minutes and finish the rest of the questions.